

Capital Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2019

In attendance: Joseph Barr
Ida Cody
Charlie Foscett
Phyllis Marshall-Hartman
Chris Moore
Sandy Pooler
Brian Rehrig
Barbara Thornton
Timur Yontar
Amy Fidalgo, Management Analyst
Jim Feeney, Assistant Town Manager
Eric Helmuth, Chair, Community Preservation Act Committee

Not in attendance: Stephen Andrew
Michael Mason

Meeting Opened: Mr. Foscett called the meeting to order at 5:05pm. The minutes of the meeting of January 3, 2019 were unanimously approved. Mr. Foscett introduced Eric Helmuth, chair of the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee, and Jim Feeney, Assistant Town Manager.

Community Preservation Act: Mr. Helmuth presented the proposed FY20 CPA budget and summarized the 8 projects being funded, pending Town Meeting approval. Currently the budget shows a deficit because state CDBG funding for the North Union Street playground is unknown; when that is finalized, the amount allocated to the Whittemore Park project will be adjusted to bring the budget into balance. The remaining fund balance from past years of \$745k is being tapped in full to help pay for the projects. The 8 projects are:

1. Whittemore Park Revitalization, phase 1: \$540k (may be reduced – see above)
2. Tercentenary Marker Restoration: \$3.5k (for historic historic markers)
3. Old Burying Ground Restoration, phase 1: \$379k
4. Whittemore Robbins Cottage Exterior Restoration: \$154k
5. Arlington Reservoir, phase 2: \$500k
6. North Union Street Playground: \$325k (may be adjusted from CDBG funding)
7. Spy Pond Field Bleachers, study: \$53k
8. Winslow Towers Envelope Repair: \$500k

All but #8 are town-owned properties; Winslow is owned / operated by the Arlington Housing Authority.

A motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the CPC endorses the CPAC budget including any rebudgeting dependent upon CBDG funding.

Arlington High School (AHS) Building Committee: Will present to CPC on Thursday, February 28. Mr. Rehrig noted that the current budget is \$291m.

Closeouts: Mr. Pooler noted that the Hardy School project is nearly closed out, as is the Stratton School – for the latter, minor work remains to be done on canopies over doorways. He also noted that the sale of the DAV building is still in limbo.

Software Subcommittee: Mr. Rehrig, Mr. Moore, and Ms. Thornton plan to present to the CPC on improved software for committee use on Wednesday, May 16.

Capital Plan: Mr. Rehrig summarized the changes since the last meeting. The \$22m for the DPW Facility has been changed to level payment in the database and the interest rates have been corrected (FY22 was 4% and now is 3.75%; FY23 was 5% and now is 4.5%). Also, 2 more items have been shifted from cash to bond: a DPW skid steer (\$75k in FY23, 10y lifespan) and the Central Fire Station waterproofing (\$100k in FY24, 10y lifespan).

Ms. Marshall-Hartman and Ms. Cody emphasized that from now on we will be more explicit about carryovers from bonded projects and how they are being mapped to other projects with lifespans at least as long as the original project.

Mr. Foskett commented that the debt service percentage of the budget is growing. Mr. Rehrig reminded the committee that to make this 5-year plan hit the 5% target a number of one-time sources of funds have been drawn down. Mr. Yontar noted that the exempt debt line will become much larger if/when the AHS debt exclusion is passed, but Mr. Pooler reminded the committee that the Town Budget top line will also increase, dollar for dollar. He noted that the Long-Range Plan had changed modestly since December but recommended that we stay with the December numbers for now. He also commented that currently the budget will go into deficit in FY23 if no operating override is passed.

CPC Report to Town Meeting: Mr. Barr, Mr. Moore, and Mr. Yontar have volunteered to work on creating this year's edition of the report. They will report to the committee on what they expect to change at the Thursday, February 28 meeting, with the presumption that consistency with prior editions is preferable when possible to make it easier for Town Meeting members to follow. Mr. Rehrig plans to craft the language of the Town Meeting vote in conjunction with Ms. Marshall-Hartman.

Presentation to Finance Committee: The CPC will present the budget and supporting slides to the Finance Committee on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:45pm at the Community Safety Building. The committee will review and rehearse the presentation on Thursday, February 28. The committee reviewed last year's presentation and assigned slides to the members. Mr. Foskett and Ms. Fidalgo will send last year's presentation to members, who will send their revised or new slides to Ms. Fidalgo for assembly into a new presentation.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned unanimously at 7:02pm.